Division	Area under encroachment (in hectares)
Rajkot	40
Bhavnagar	29
Sealdah	19
Howrah	17
Asansol	2
Dhanbad	13
Mughalsarai	2
Malda	3
Danapur	29
Izzatnagar	103
Lucknow	1
Varanasi	8
Sonpur	1
Samastipur	2
Madras	51
Palghat	1
Trivandrum	7
Bangalore	2
Mysore	4
Tiruchchirappalli	17
Madhurai	1
Adra	45
Bilaspur	6
Chakradharpur	73
Khurda Road	540
Kharagpur	27
Nagpur	4
Sanibalpur	11
Vishakhapatnam	9

(c) to (d) Vacant land is kept reserved for Railway's future development/ Expansion work. To get the land vacated from e'ncroachers action is taken under Public premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

सिरसा एक्सप्रेस से ए.सी. टू-टीयर स्लीपर को हटाया जाना

3487. **श्री रामजीलालः** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः-

(क) क्या नई दिल्ली से चलने वाली सिरसा एक्सप्रेस से ए.सी. टू-टीयर स्लीपर हटा दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार को यह भी जानकारी है कि प्रथम श्रेणी कोचों में अधिकांशतः बिना टिकट यात्री होते हैं तथा उनमें बहुत अधिक भीड़ रहती है;

(घ) क्या सरकार का विचार सासदों तथा उच्च श्रेणी का किराया खर्च कर यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए ए.सी. टू-टीयर स्लीपर या ए.सी. चेयर कार पुनः शुरू करने का है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक):

(क) जी हां।

(ख) कम उपयोग किए जाने के कारण।

(ग) प्रथम श्रेणी के सवारी डिब्बों में कोई अनधिकृत व्यक्ति प्रवेश न करे, यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इन सवारी डिब्बों में रेलवे कर्मचारी तैनात किए जाते हैं। बिना टिकट/अनुपयुक्त टिकट पर यात्रा करते हुए पाए गए व्यक्तियों पर रेल अधिनियम, 1989 के उपबंधों के अंतर्गत कार्रवाई की जाती है।

(घ) और (ङ) जी नहीं। कम उपयोग किए जाने के कारण द्वितीय वातानुकूल शयनयान की बहाली औचित्यपूर्ण नहीं है तथा भार सीमा के कारण वातानुकूल कुर्सीयान की व्यवस्था करना परिचालनिक रूप से व्यवहारिक नहीं है।

Posts lying Vacant in Railways

3488. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJ-ARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 1.2 lakh posts are lying vacant in Railways for the last so many years;

(b) if so, the reasons for which these have not been filled up; and

(c) whether Government propose to abolish these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) As on 31.3.1998 nearly 1.22 lakh posts were vacant on the zonal railways. This however, does not mean that the same 1.22 lakh posts are lying vacant for the last several years.

(b) As posts failing vacant and being filled up is *a* continuous process, a certain number of posts do remain vacant at any point of time.

(e) It is not the policy of the Govern- ', mem to abolish all vacant posts. On the Railways, surrender and creation of posts is based on the needs emerging from the level' of workload in various activity centres and changes taking place in systems of working and management of the Railways.

Gauge conversion between Pondicherry to Villupuram

3489. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion work between Pondicherry to Villupuram will be completed before the end of 1998;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the gauge conversion will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No. Sir,

(b) and (c) The Work was included in the Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining the necessary approval of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission have not agreed to the taking up of this project for the present. The work is temporarily frozen and will be reconsidered once the resource position improves and some of the ongoing works get completed.

Extending of Ratnachal Express upto Vizianagaram

3490. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received to extend Ratnachal Express upto Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh;

(a) if so, the action taken- thereon; and

(b) the reasons for not extending it early as only 40 minutes extra rwn is involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Extension of 7245/7!246 Ratnanchal Express upto Vizianagaram has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Expansion and Renovation of Railway Stations

3491. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(b) whether expansion and renovation of large number of railway stations has been undertaken during last financial year;

(c) if so, the names of such stations State and Union Territory-wise along with nature of work involved and estimated amount to be spent in each case;

(d) whether Governmerrt propose to undertakc similar work as in (a) for more railways stations of country during current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and works in this regard are taken up evey year wherever so warranted, subject to availablility of funds. There are more than 7000 stations over Indian Railways and works are taken up wherever justified according to traffic needs. During the year 1997-98 works in this regard were taken up at stations all over Indian Railways incurring an expenditure of Rs. 89,93 crore.

Information in regard to major moder-nisation works in progress and new works